

May 20, 1983

LB 632

PRESIDENT: Do you want them kept in there, you mean for now or forever?

SENATOR WARNER: Withdrawn forever, which might be ten minutes.

PRESIDENT: Anything further on the bill?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend the bill.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, when 632 was considered on General File Senator Cullan raised some questions about the matter at hand dealing with health insurance coverage for state employees and clearly all of us are very concerned about the cost increase. So in talking with Senator Cullan and others involved in the issue it was thought that perhaps by amending LB 632 to call for a research on the part of the Personnel Department to work in conjunction with the University of Nebraska, the State Colleges, the Risk Manager and those employee groups that are effected to come to some conclusion as to what we can do to keep these costs down would be the best way to approach the problem. So the amendment before you would merely call for a study done on behalf of the State of Nebraska by the Personnel Department in conjunction with these other entities would be ready on January 1 of this next year and hopefully we would get some answers as to what we can do to keep costs down on health insurance coverage for state employees. That is what the amendment would do.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cullan, do you wish recognition on this bill? Talking on the Wesely amendment to LB 632.

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes, Mr. President, I am supporting the Wesely amendment. I think it is a responsible and reasonable thing to do. I pulled off a motion that I had to kill LB 632 and LB 632A, for one reason because we are not giving state employees a normal salary increase but the public should know that we are in effect giving them a salary increase by picking up the full cost of their increase of their health insurance plus some. In fact, if you will look at your fiscal note for those people in the... who take the intermediate option insurance we are actually giving them about a 40% reduction in their premiums, according to the fiscal note or something in that order. So, not only are we picking up that increase in premium cost but we are actually giving some of those people a reduction in their health care insurance premiums which I think is very, very generous, so in effect we are giving the employees of the